

We feel that these studies merit the closest attention, as much research of this nature must necessarily precede any detailed plans for regional development in different areas—if we regard that as a desirable object. It is hoped that further studies of this nature will be prepared and published from time to time in the next year or two. Nobody can claim that Mr Bertram is presenting an extravagant picture, when it is realized that the contributions provided for the three boroughs in the district in his Table D—without rental collections being taken into account—are below the NZLA per capita standard arrived at in 1950-51, a standard which from the financial angle is hopelessly out of date by the present-day cost structure. In other areas of New Zealand, the current contribution from boroughs would show quite a different picture, and the greatest increase would have to come from the counties. It is a sobering thought, though, that in this area, and in a number of other regional or provincial areas which come to mind, the public library of the central city or borough, which one would expect to be the mainspring of regional service, is not yet providing free, rate-supported service to its citizens. With this in mind, though, it is obvious that in the present organization of local government in New Zealand, the county councils are the key factor in the overall provision of true library service.

LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE GISBORNE DISTRICT: A BRIEF SURVEY

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THE Gisborne district forms a well defined geographical unit stretching from the Waimana gorge, a little North West of Opotoki, to Cape Runaway in the East, and South to the boundary of the Wairoa County. There are seven counties, three boroughs and one dependent town district in the area. The total population is 55,334, 38% of which live in the three boroughs of Gisborne, Wairoa and Opotoki, the remainder living in the counties.¹

The most noticeable feature about the district—and one which seriously affects the provision of library service—is that the boroughs are located along the main road leading along the western part of the area while the great mass of the rural area stretches 100 miles eastward to the East Cape. The greatest population density is around the large towns, however, Wairoa in particular being well placed for the provision of borough and county library service from a single point obviating the necessity for costly postal and van services.

Another factor wherein this district differs from others is that such a large proportion of the population live in rural areas. The bearing this has on the provision of library service in the area becomes evident when

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¹All population figures are those of the 1951 census.

it is considered that 'the most important point at which service generally can be improved is the municipal library for within municipal areas live over 60% of New Zealand's population.'² If the people living within five miles of the boroughs in this area are considered along with the population of those boroughs, about 45% of the population at the most could be served by the municipal libraries.

EXISTING BOROUGH LIBRARY FACILITIES

Since, with one exception, the local authorities have not assumed the responsibility for library service the existing public libraries in the boroughs of Gisborne, Wairoa and Opotiki are financed on the subscription basis. As subscription libraries they are outside the main stream of library development in the country and are not able to avail themselves of the services offered by the Country Library Service.

For the purposes of this very brief survey it is proposed to consider only two factors: first, the number of subscribers and second, expenditure, in relation to 'Standards for public libraries' as put forward by the Standards Committee of the NZLA.³ This naturally leaves out of account any consideration of the quality of service provided but it is hoped that it will indicate that these libraries appeal to a very restricted public and cannot hope to offer any standard of service to a wider field on their restricted budgets.

The NZLA standard for membership is 30% to 40% of the adult population and from 20% to 40% of the juvenile. The expenditure per head of population for adequate library service is given as from 5s. to 6s.—remembering that these standards were developed in late 1950 and early 1951.

The registered membership of the Turangunui Public Library in Gisborne is 842 adults and 1048 juveniles, in a population of 17,302. Income from subscriptions for the year ended 31st March 1953 was £1345 while the local authorities contributed £650. Together these amounts represent an expenditure of 3s. 9d. per head of population.

The Wairoa Mechanics Institute and Library has a membership of 227 subscribers, 50 of whom are County residents. Thus 6% of the borough residents are library users. Library expenditure for the period ending 30th June 1953 was £459 13s. 10d., or approximately 3s. per head of borough population.

Opotiki is the smallest borough in the area with a population of 1780. The latest figures available are for 1948, giving 200 borrowers and an expenditure of £250 for the year. This represents 2s. 9d. per head of borough population.

RURAL LIBRARY SERVICE

The CLS book van visits 34 libraries in the area, one of which, Te Karaka, is a free rate-supported library, the remaining 33 being small independent subscription libraries not controlled by a rating authority.

The Te Karaka library is financed by a grant from the Te Karaka Town Board. A high standard of library service has been built up for such a

²O'Neill, T. B. Distribution of population and rural library service. *New Zealand Libraries*. 14:152-54 J1 '51.

³O'Neill, T. B. Standards for public libraries. *New Zealand Libraries*. 14:33-42 Mr '51.

small community. There is great local interest in the library which now has 93 borrowers and employs a part-time librarian. This year free service was offered to all residents in the Waikohu County. There is a basic deposit of 400 books on loan from the Country Library Service at the Te Karaka library, while throughout the other 33 libraries there are 2275 books on loan in deposits ranging from 25 to 250 books. These books are exchanged on the regular visits of the bookvan every four months. These libraries also participate in the use of short term loans of books on specific subjects and the loan of individual books on 'Request'.

Twelve of these deposits are located in private houses and twelve are in schools or schoolhouses. Four are in shops and two are in Women's Institute buildings. Two have rooms in the local hall and two have their own library buildings.

DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL POPULATION

The rural population of 33,102, representing 62 % of the total population of the area is much larger than the national average. The density of population for the whole district is 6.1 persons per square mile while the average for New Zealand is 6.4. The distribution of population in 1951 was as follows:

			% Rural	% Total
RURAL (a) Townships	6,511	19.5	11.8
(b) Population within 5 miles of a township or borough	..	5,407	16.3	9.7
(c) Localities with more than 100 people not in (a) or (b)	..	12,093	36.5	21.7
(d) Remainder of rural popul'n		9,031	27.2	16.3
		<hr/> 33,102		
URBAN	22,232		38.0
	Total	<hr/> 55,334		

Almost 20% of the rural population live in 19 townships, as defined in the 1951 census report, 'where the status of a village had been attained or there existed at least a fairly definite nucleus of a village.' A further 16.3 % live within five miles of such a township or a borough.

It has been suggested⁴ that these townships provide the most suitable distribution point for 30% of the rural population. It is interesting to note that 11 such townships in this area have deposits of books and that the larger of the rural libraries are to be found here. Three other towns have had deposits in the past and three of the towns are within five miles of Gisborne and might be considered suburban rather than rural. It is in such towns that 'librarianship in the technical sense begins to be seen . . . and the library goes some way towards being a community centre, focal point for adult education.'⁵

⁴O'Neill, T. B. Distribution of population and rural library service. *New Zealand Libraries* 14:154 J1 '51.

⁵Mercer, A. E. Those 'B' Libraries: Book service in the open country. *New Zealand Libraries* 14:260 N '51.

MAORI POPULATION

An important consideration in the area is the large Maori population. About half the rural population is Maori, with the greatest numbers living in isolated groups. Maori in townships form 35 % of the population while of those living within five miles of a centre, 24 % are Maori. Very small numbers live in the boroughs.

There is no special provision for Maori library service and they stand on the same footing as Europeans. Where wholly Maori groups have been established these function as effectively as others, with readers of varying standards and education enjoying a wide range of reading. The library, as part of every-day life reflects the local attitudes, so that in a mixed community where there is an atmosphere of confidence between the races, both freely use the same service but where mutual trust does not exist, co-operation is almost impossible.

In 66 communities of over 100 people live 36.5 % of the rural population. About half of these communities are predominantly Maori and in these there are five libraries. In this category fall the libraries of Tuai and Kaitawa at the hydro electric stations which are the only Pakeha groups in this population category. When last visited there were 245 borrowers associated with these deposits.

SERVICE TO THE REMAINDER OF THE RURAL POPULATION

There remains 27.2 % of the rural population living in smaller groups and in isolation. To effectively supply them, other means of distribution than those used at present would be needed, although, as Mr O'Neill points out, it is difficult to know how many of these people visit a centre at regular intervals and could be served there—if service were available.

There are 15 deposits in this category and Mr Mercer's description of 'the small "B" library [which] is most often the property of a reading group, a dozen or so people' aptly describes them. There were 134 borrowers associated with these groups when last visited. If this number seems slight when considering library service to 9031 people it would be worth quoting Mr Mercer again that 'it takes an effort to start a "B" library and it means work to keep one going. With so many claims on their time, people in the country have to be pretty keen about books before they organise a library'. The existence of these libraries depends upon the individuals who initiate them and it might be said that the most vigorous and articulate demand for reading in the country is satisfied in this way.

It becomes evident that great areas of the population in the Gisborne district are without access to library service of any kind. The people in the boroughs are virtually without libraries, though one imagines not without books. No doubt the book clubs supply a great part of the demand and the book shops, in Gisborne at least, appear to be of a very high standard.

Up to 30 % of the rural population living in townships have access to library service through local organizations in association with the Country Library Service. The present effect of this service is to indicate that the long term deposit with small independent libraries is a suitable and acceptable type of service for these towns. Of the remainder of the rural community it might be said that the most vigorous and articulate demand is being supplied through small van deposits but the coverage achieved by this method indicates that other means of distribution are needed if greater effect is to be achieved.

SUMMARY OF CLS DEPOSITS IN THE GISBORNE DISTRICT

(a) Wairoa County (County Population 7,776, incl. 4,403 Maori)

		Pop. (Total)	Pop. (Maori)	Members	Location
(1) Ardkeen		119	20	10	House
(2) Nuhaka	(T)	523	335	36	School
(3) Opoutama	(+)	218	105	20	Shop
(4) Putorino		150	16	16	House
(5) Tuai	(+)	288	57	40	Hall
(6) Kaitawa	(+)	502	60	25	House
(7) Mangaruhe		?		12	House

(b) Cook County. Population 7,654; 2,001 Maori No deposits

(c) Waikohu County. Population 3,019 total; 1,092 Maori.

(8) Koranga		46	29	8	House
(9) Matawai	(T)	167	45	39	Hall
(10) Otoko		166	35	8	W.I. Hall
(11) Waipaoa Stn.		79	33	12	House
(12) Whatatutu	(T)	155	57	20	School
(13) Rakauaroa		109	23	6	W. I. Hall
(14) Te Karaka 'A' Lib.		384	130	92	Library

(Te Karaka is a Dependent Town District)

(d) Uawa County. Population 1,636 total; 867 Maori.

(15) Tologa Bay	(T)	445	159	30	Shop
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(e) Waiapu County. Population 6,251 total; 4,408 Maori.

(16) Ihungia Stn.		34	10	10	House
(17) Rangitukia	(+)	484	463	30	School
(18) Ruatoria	(T)	764	493	30	Shop
(19) Tiki Tiki	(T)	570	539	12	House
(20) Tokomaru Bay	(T)	723	419	30	School
(21) Waitakaro	(+)	292	277	6	School
(22) Hautanoa		203	101	12	Library
(23) Tuhua		?		4	House
(24) Rahiri		?		6	House

(f) Matakaoa County. Population 1,906 total; 1,507 Maori.

(25) Cape Runaway	(+)	180	166	30	School
(26) Hicks Bay	(T)	214	158	24	School
(27) Horoera		129	127	7	School
(28) Te Araroa	(T)	434	388	36	School
(29) Waitangirua		?		15	House

(g) Opotiki County. Population 4,860 total; 2,757 Maori.

(30) Hospital Hill		136	0	15	House
(31) Ruakokore		88	71	7	House
(32) Te Kaha	(+)	347	293	40	Shop
(33) Kutarere	(T)	209	109	12	School
(34) Waiotahi Vly.	(T)	122	70	12	School

(T) = Township 11

(+) = over 100 7
remainder 15